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# Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

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Council Members:

Carl Edwards  
Julianna Valliere  
Elliot Rising Sunn  
John Brown  
Beverly Baumann  
Louis St. Germaine  
Glory Allen  
Tom Maulson

Location: Vilas County, north central Wisconsin

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# Lac du Flambeau

## Tribal Statistics

There are currently 3,279 LdF tribal members.

- 17 and under = 728
- Ages 18 and older = 2,551

The LdF Reservation, located primarily in Vilas County, totals 86,547 acres.

- 32,150 acres are tribally owned
- 14,579 acres are individually allotted
- 24,399 acres are fee land
- 15,239 acres are water/wetlands
- Approximately 1,873 tribal members live on reservation, trust, or fee land

LdF is the largest employer in Vilas County (*Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development*), employing approximately 810 people.

## Tribal Government

The LdF Tribal Council is composed of 12 members.

- The council meets twice monthly
- Decisions are made by a majority rule
- Elections are held every October for six members of the council. Two-year terms are staggered

## Brief History

The Chippewa Indians, or Anishinabe, are one of the most numerous cultural and linguistic groups native to the North American continent. There are six Anishinabe reservations in northern Wisconsin, which together constitute a portion of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Other Lake Superior Chippewa reside in Michigan, Minnesota and Canada. In 1645, the region now called Lac du Flambeau was taken over by the Chippewa, ending the Sioux Nations' long-standing occupation over the region. Lac du Flambeau ("Lake of the Torches") has remained a permanent Chippewa settlement since 1745, when Chief Kishkemon (Sharpened Stone) led his band of Chippewa to the area and chose to settle because of the abundance of wild game, fish and natural vegetation. Early French fur traders witnessed the Chippewa tradition of spearfishing at night with the aid of a torch in early spring, hence the name Lac du Flambeau.

Over the years, many of the Wisconsin Chippewa have drifted away from their reservations to seek employment, education and other opportunities. Despite attrition, the tribe has realized some significant advances in recent decades. During the 1980's and 1990's, a series of federal court rulings reaffirmed Chippewa treaty rights concerning

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hunting, fishing and gathering on treaty-ceded territories. Traditionally high unemployment rates amongst the Chippewa have been greatly reduced by the advent of bingo and other gaming operations during the past decade. Other sources of tribal income include commercial fishing, forestry, production and sales of arts and crafts and the tourist and service economy of the region.

## Tribal Services

### Law Enforcement

- Twelve officers and one Chief of Police
- Agreement with Vilas County Sheriff's Department (transportation, jail housing)
- Funded primarily with tribal funds, some discretionary federal grants, and Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance funds

### Court System

- Two judges
- Legal counsel must pass bar to practice before the court
- The LdF Court System handles cases such as divorce, child protection, guardianships, civil, divorce, custody, child support, domestic abuse, small claims, replevin, and recognition of foreign orders
- Funded by Bureau of Indian Affairs grants, tribal funds and sub-contract with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)

### Education

LdF youth are educated in two primary school districts. These districts are:

- Lac du Flambeau Elementary School District (451 students/93% of student body)
- Lakeland Union High School (203/20.5%)

(Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction)

### Healthcare

- Clinic services include: urgent care, pharmacy, dental, community health, diabetes care, and nutrition
- Funded by LdF Tribe, with some funds coming from the Indian Health Service and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services

### Social Services

- Youth mentoring
- Day Care
- Elder Meal Services
- Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) counseling
- Domestic Abuse Program and Shelter
- Family Resource Center
- Funded through tribal, state and federal government monies

## Economic Enterprises

LdF employs approximately 850 people

### Business

Lake of the Torches  
Lac du Flambeau, WI

### Type of Business

Casino, hotel/lodge, convention center

Lac du Flambeau Tribe and  
Tribal Enterprises  
Lac du Flambeau, WI

- Tribal Programs
- Campground/marina
- Store/Gas Station
- Smoke Shop